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"SAMSON AND DELILAH"

by

Hughes Allison

MUSIC MUSIC SWELLS AND FADES.

ANNOUNCER Presenting SAMSON AND DELILAH. Episode TWO of a new Harlem detective comedy drama.

MUSIC THESE UP BRIEFLY AND UNDER.

ANNOUNCER Ladies and gentlemen: Before we swing out with this week's instalment of our Up-Town Odyssey, suppose we give Old Father Time alighty and take a peek at what happened in Episode ONE.

(THESE IS OUT)

If you remember, we dropped in on the Blue Rhythm Ballroom where we found Mae Jones dancing with George Wright. Mae, it seems, was a great gal when it came to tripping the light fantastic. Also, she was thumbs down on the Harlem high browns....particularly where George was concerned. But there was something else (MUSIC FADES) afoot. And Mae was saying to George....

MUSIC DRAMATIC THESE UP AND UNDER

MAE (FADE IN) You know....I wish dere wasn't no job tonight.

GEORGE Yeah? How come?

MAE It's the feeling I got. Like something AWFUL was going to happen. (FADE)

MUSIC DRAMATIC THESE UP AND UNDER.

GEORGE (FADE IN) Who's yo' girl-friend, Boss?

BOSS Sally....meet Mae and George. (FADE)

MUSIC DRAMATIC THEME UP AND UNDER

GEORGE (FADE IN) I aint so sho I tripped. Dat Sally PUSHED me!

MAE Aw forgit it! And let's have one mo' dance before....

GEORGE (INTERRUPTING) The most important part of the job aint done yet! And you wants to dance! Well....jest one mo' dance and den we'll go downstairs to the check-room.(FADE)

MUSIC DRAMATIC THEMES UP AND UNDER.

MAE (FADE IN) The clasp! It aint here! Po'lice! Po'lice!

GEORGE Who wants to know?

SAMSON What you's yelling for. The LAW....in person!

DELILAH I didn't steal it! I've never stolen anything in my life.

SAMSON (CLOSE) Mr....didn't he call you....Delilah?

DELILAH Yes.

SAMSON My name's Samson. You and me ought to git along.

SAMSON AND DELILAH. (FADE)

MUSIC DRAMATIC THEMES UP AND UNDER.

BOSS (FADE IN) Quit stelling! I cant use the phoney you switched on us. In this case handing over the REAL clasp might save your LIFE! (CLOSE) Who's this guy, coming over this way?

DELILAH The manager, Mr. Brown. (FADE)

MUSIC DRAMATIC THEMES UP AND UNDER.

SOUND DOOR OPENS. TWO SHOTS. DELILAH SCREAMS. FOOTSTEPS RUNNING AWAY. DEATH GURGLE OF MAN. DIAL PHONE. PHONE RINGS AWAY THROUGH DELILAH'S RECEIVER. (CUT)

SAMSON (VOICE THROUGH RECEIVER) Hello?

DELILAH Samson this is Delilah. I just got home. Before I

could turn on the light

DEILILAH (Cont'd) could turn on the light, I heard two shots. And
some one ran out of the apartment. When I switched on
the light....George Wright was on the floor. DEAD!
He's been murdered!

SAMSON (VOICE THROUGH RECEIVER) Dont let nobody in but ME!
And dont TOUCH nothing 'til I git dere. 'Cause dis
is the LAW talking!

MUSIC DRAMATIC THEME UP. (CUT SHORT)

(PAUSE)

SOUND DOOR CLOSSES.

SAMSON Now....where the body at?

DEILILAH Over there!

SAMSON (GOING AWAY FROM MIKE) fesh! Laying flat on his back,
right by dat little desk. Now....lemme see....

DEILILAH (COMING TO MIKE) And just look at my house! Everything
torn apart....clothes scattered all over the floor.
Even the towels in the bathroom were dumped in a knot
in the middle of the tub. You'd think it was Hal-
loween from the looks of things.

SAMSON I'll jest roll him over....on his face. (PAUSE) Dere
now!

DEILILAH I haven't touched a thing. In fact....I haven't been
this close to him since I telephoned you.

SAMSON And I never lost no time gitting here neither!

DEILILAH Thanks....for coming right over. (PAUSE) You know,
Samson....I feel....well, kind of comfortable with you
looking into this....instead of....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) I thought you tole me over the phone dat
dere was TWO shots.

DEILAH I did tell you that. There were two shots.

SAMSON Yeah? But dis dude aint sporting but ONE bullet hole.

DEILAH Let me see? (PAUSE) Hmmm-huh!

SAMSON Now....where was you when the shooting started?

DEILAH There....by the door. It was dark. I couldn't find the light switch. I heard the shots before I got the lights turned on. And some one dashed out of the apartment before....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) Who was it?

DEILAH I dont know! I hadn't turned on the lights.

SAMSON (GOING AWAY FROM MIKE) You say, you was standing over here?

DEILAH There! Right where you are now.

SAMSON (AWAY) Hmmm. What's dis?

DEILAH What is what?

SAMSON (AWAY) Dis hole....right by my head?

DEILAH (COMING TO MIKE) A hole in the wall by the side of the door? I've never noticed it there before.

SAMSON Wait'll I git out my knife. (PAUSE) Now....let's have a look. (PAUSE) Dis blade's too big. I'll^{try} dis little one.

DEILAH I'm SURE that hole wasn't there....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) You're mighty right it wasn't. Look!

DEILAH A bullet!

SAMSON Yeah! Number two.

DEILAH But....but WHY would some one want to shoot me? Of course, if it was just a common burgler....but then George Wright was in here when I arrived. Oh! this is all so mixed up!

SAMSON Yeah! (HE SUSPECTS SHE HASN'T TOLD ALL SHE KNOWS)
Aint it?

DELILAH Why....why are you looking at me....like that, Samson?
(PAUSE) Well, dont just stand there....and stare at
me....as if I were a....murderer!

SAMSON You wouldn't try....to mix ME up....now would you?

DELILAH Try to mix YOU up! Why Samson....I just dont seem....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) Directly after I left you at the Blue
Rhythma Ballroom tonight....I went home and got my
Bible. Den I set down and turned pages 'til I come
to where it tells about Samson and Delilah.

DELILAH Well?

SAMSON Hush! Dat po' boy in the Bible what's got my name
didn't have a chance. 'Cause dat woman....in the same
story what's got yo' name....had the Indian Sign on
him from the very start!

DELILAH But that was ANOTHER story!

SAMSON And you knows....what dey say 'bout history! It re-
peats itself....like a motion picture. And it looks
like I come in, right in the middle of the show!

DELILAH You dont think I'd treat you like the Biblical Delilah
treated the Biblical Samson....do you?

SAMSON Who said....I was going to take dat chance?

DELILAH Well Samson! Dont forget it was YOU who was struck
by the similiarity of our names to those of the Biblical
characters.

SAMSON And didn't DAT Delilah take DAT Samson for a ride!
Whew! WHIEW!

DELILAH What's in a NAME?

SAMSON Dynamite....according to the Bible....when it go on
to tell about the woman YOU'S named after. But I aint
waiting for the explosion. And I'm talking WAY above
a whisper!

DELILAH Listen Samson! Once I saw a movie....all about two
people named Romeo And Juliet. Their families were
enemies but....but Romeo and Juliet, to say the least
....were very, very fond of each other.

SAMSON You're telling me!

DELILAH Well Juliet said: "What's in a name? That which we call
a rose, by any other name, would smell as sweet?"

SAMSON I seen dat same movie. And how did it end? Romeo
got plenty of headaches, chasing after Juliet! And he
finished up wid a bellyful of poison! But aint nothing
like Dat going to happen to ME. Not to Sergeant De-
tective Samson Williams!

DELILAH But what are you going to do?

SAMSON Look! Let's jest sort of coast back over what's happen
tonight.

DELILAH Okay! I think it's a good idea.

SAMSON Hann! Well I trucks over to the Blue Rhythim Ballroom
early dis evening. And what does I find? YOU....in
a argument wid two people named Mae Jones and George
Bright. Day claims you stole a high price diamond
clasp off Mae's coat. But nobody kin find dat clasp.
YOU's got a smooth tongue....and lots of looks. And
what happens. I falls for sweet words and plenty of
pretty-pretty....and lets everybody go home. And NOW
you calls me to come to yo' apartment. What does I find?

SAMSON (Cont'd) The latest candidate for the morgue. And his name's George Wright!

DELILAH But look at my apartment! It's all....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) I got eyes to see! All upset....like somebody was looking for something. Now....it wouldn't be dat diamond clasp....would it?

DELILAH What do you mean?

SAMSON Well....suppose it was in here and....

DELILAH (INTERRUPTING) But how could it have got here?

SAMSON Sister, dat's an easy one! You picks it off the coat in the checkroom....and SENDS it here by somebody you got working wid you. Old stuff! Old Stuff!

DELILAH But the dead man?

SAMSON Another easy one! HE knows you got it all the time. He takes a chance on it being in dis apartment. He comes to take a look. Right about den....you unlocks the door....and bang! The undertaker's got a job. Den you fires another bullet in the wall....so's I'll see it when I come.

SOUND JINGLE OF HANDCUFFS.

DELILAH (FRIGHTENED) What....what are you going to do with....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) Dees handcuffs? Put 'em on you!

DELILAH Samson....wait a minute. Listen to me. Wait....please!

SAMSON Talk....and talk fast!

DELILAH I didn't do it! Honest I didn't! I didn't steal that clasp. But I've got a good idea who did. I didn't kill George Wright....but if I....we....you and me.... if we can find the person who has that clasp....we'll have George Wright's murderer.

SAMSON Sister....you aint doing nothing but punishing yo' gums. Now....dees handcuffs wont hurt unless....

DELILAH Suppose I DIDN'T steal that clasp! And you arrest me. Suppose I DIDN'T kill George Wright! And you charge me with murder. And suppose ANOTHER detective clears me! Do you know what that'll make you, Season?

SAMSON What? I'll bite!

DELILAH The BIGGEST sap....in all Harlem! (PAUSE) Now....give me a chance to work with you....so I can clear myself to your satisfaction.

(SLIGHT PAUSE)

SAMSON And what would you start off wid?

DELILAH George Wright's apartment is just above mine. If we went up there and took a look....we might find something that might help.

SAMSON Okay. (GOING AWAY FROM MIKE) His keys ought to be in his pocket. I'll git 'em and play yo' game....for awhile.

DELILAH There's lots I haven't told you yet and....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) Dat aint news. But DIS is: One bad move out of YOU, Delilah Berry, and I'll make you hate the day you was born. And dis is the LAW talking!

SCENE MUSICAL BRIDGE. CLICK OF LIGHT SWITCH. DOOR CLOSING.

SAMSON Well!

DELILAH Why....why his apartment is as upset as mine!

SAMSON You said it! Somebody is sho looking for something. And if it was here....day got it! Cause dis place is been searched from beginnaing to end.

DELILAH Who ever was here....was looking for that clasp. You know, I wonder....

SAMSON You wonder what, Delilah?

DELILAH I wonder....how many more people will have to die.... before its found?

SAMSON Hush dat death talk! Dat's the one thing I dont like about dis dee-etective job. People gitting killed.

DELILAH Maybe....I'm next.

SAMSON What you talking about? You's next? For what?

DELILAH After you left the Ballroom tonight, and while I was in the checkroom....

SAMSON Yeah?

DELILAH A man came over to my aisle. He was one of the couple we were looking for....when I danced with you.

SAMSON How come you didn't call somebody?

DELILAH I didn't have a chance! Before I could do anything about it....well! he was gone.

SAMSON What he want?

DELILAH He thought I had the clasp. The REAL one, he said. Apparently, he thought I had switched clasps..... double crossed him or something. Anyway, from what he said, I know I was right about HOW the clasp got got out of my aisle.

SAMSON Yeah?

DELILAH That woman....the one who came and left with him.... took it when she entered the aisle to fix her slip.

SAMSON Was she wid him....when he come back the last time?

DELILAH No....he was alone.

SAMSON What else he say?

DELILAH He was pretty set....about me having the clasp. And he told me....if I didn't hand it over....CURTAINS.

SAMSON She you mint got it?

DELILAH (EXASPERATED) Aw Samson! Dont be a fool!

SAMSON Look our dere! Mind how you speaks to the LAN!

DELILAH Please trust me, Samson. You did when....when you first met me tonight.

SAMSON Dat was BEFORE I read the Bible. Whew! WHEW! What dat Delilah did to dat Samson. Cut his hair off.... so he couldn't pull off his strong-man act! Put his eyes out! And den causd him to pull a whole, great big house down....so it killed him and everybody in it.

DELILAH But that SECOND bullet, Samson! The one in the wall of my apartment. That MUST have been meant for ME.

SAMSON (DUBIOUS) Hmm....maybe....

DELILAH I KNOW somebody was trying to kill me. I know it! And they'll try again.

SAMSON (CLOSE TO MIKE) Say....come here. (PAUSE) Closer!

DELILAH Well?

SAMSON I jest want to look in yo' eyes. Dont git me wrong!

DELILAH And what do you see?

SAMSON (DUBIOUS) You is telling me the truth? You is scared? (PAUSE) Aw but....but what kin any man tell....jest by looking in a woman's eyes!

DELILAH Maybe you haven't looked close enough....or long enough. S&Mson....I really am sincere. Honest! (LAUGHING) Just listen at me! Begging you to believe in me. And I dont know WHY!

SOUND DOOR BELL RINGS.

SAMSON (WHISPERING) I wonder who dat is?

DELILAH (WHISPERING) What are you going to do?

SAMSON (WHISPERING) Dey done seen the light under the door
....who ever it is.

DELILAH Maybe....if we just wait....they'll go away.

SAMSON (WHISPERING) Dont talk so loud. Dey'll hear you.

SOUND DOOR BELL RINGS AGAIN.

DELILAH (WHISPERING) I wonder who it can be?

SAMSON (WHISPERING) Dis time of night too! Well I jest GOT
to know!

DELILAH (WHISPERING) What do you mean?

SAMSON (WHISPERING) You open the door and....

DELILAH (WHISPERING AND INTERRUPTING) Me?

SAMSON (WHISPERING) Sho! I'll git back of the door....so when
it opens....who ever comes in wont see me. And jest
to make sho!....I'll have my gun out and ready. The
way dat door opens....I kin shoot through the crack
it makes at the hinges into the hall. Now....go ahead
and open it. (PAUSE) Dont be scared.

SOUND DOOR BELL RINGS AGAIN.

DELILAH Can I help it if I'm shaking?

SAMSON (WHISPERING AND EXASPERATED) Mind how loud you talks!
(PAUSE) Okay! Pull it open. I got you covered!

SOUND DOOR OPENING.

BROWN Were you asleep, Delilah?

DELILAH (STARTLED) Why Fred! Mr. Brown, I mean.

BROWN Fred....will do. I just had to come, Delilah!

DELILAH But....but why?

BROWN Well....well, when we were talking in the checkroom
tonight....after the detective had gone....I never did
finish what I was trying to say.

DELILAH But how on earth did you know I'd....I'd be in THIS apartment?

BROWN Delilah, I hadn't intended to tell you this....just now anyway. But I'm planning to give up the ballroom. Oh, it's a swell job....pays me and all that! Still there must be something else I can do in Harlem....on my own....besides managing a dance hall. Anyhow, in a few days I expect to have enough money to go in business for myself. (PAUSE) Well? I know it's late to be paying you a call....but couldn't you ask me in for....oh just a few minutes?

ROUND DOOR SLAMS SHUT.

SAMSON Yeah! Ask him to come in, Delilah!

BROWN Well! The detective! But why the gun?

SAMSON I'll ask the questions!

BROWN I didn't expect to see you here.

SAMSON But you DID expect to see Delilah here, aint dat so?

BROWN Say....do you mind pointing that gun somewhere else? Better still....put it in your pocket. Or where ever you keep it.

SAMSON Yo' biggest worry 'bout dis gun....is dat I dont use it on you!

BROWN Delilah....what is this all....

SAMSON I'LL ask the questions.

BROWN Very well....ASK the questions.

SAMSON Dat's better. Now! You come to DIS apartment....looking for Delilah, didn't you? (PAUSE) Didn't you?!

BROWN (LAUGHING) I've said nothing about ANSWERING your questions. And anyway....what a foolish thing to ask me!

DELILAH Fred! This is....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) Keep quiet, Delilah!

BROWN Dont you talk to her like that!

SAMSON Oh! YOU want to git tough, huh!

BROWN In just about two seconds....I'll take that gun easy
from you and make you eat it!

SAMSON Yeah? Try it....and yo' next meal will be wid the
angels! And dis is the LAW talking!